



For the Record

From remarks by Rep. James Mann (D-S.C.) during House Judiciary Committee debate on articles of impeachment, July 29:

You know, Americans revere their President, and rightly they should because they know that by his oath he is supposed to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution, to enforce the Bill of Rights, which is their heritage, your rights and mine, whether I am a Democrat or a Republican, rich or poor, and that he will see that the laws are faithfully executed and that the individual liberties of each of us is protected, whether President or pauper.

Now, this committee has spent 10 weeks reviewing the evidence, and it is not fair to you in these sessions to pull the tidbits out on one side or the other. There is no way that you can bring yourself in the position that we are in with the knowledge of the facts that we have. I wish you could. As your representatives, we are charged with determining that truth, and although we have laid something on the table during these past three or four days, and having sat here during these three or four days I have had people ask questions about what the evidence was, and I would have been wondering if maybe they were here with me, because it is on that evidence that each of us is making our decision, and as we seek a way to escape that decision, we cannot escape that still, small voice . . .

And in this situation, as we look at how the office of the Presidency has been served by an individual, I share the remarks of George Danielson that it is not the Presidency that is in jeopardy from us. We would strive to strengthen and protect the Presidency. But, if there be no accountability, another President will feel free to do as he chooses. But, the next time there may be no watchman in the night.